

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 11658 271430Z

47

ACTION PM-04

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3994

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 11658

E.O. 11652; GDS

TAGS: MARR, US, UK

SUBJ: PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION ON DIEGO GARCIA

1. THE FOREIGN OFFICE IS ATTEMPTING TO PUT TOGETHER A RESPONSE TO A PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION WHICH WILL BE POSED TOMORROW, JULY 28. WE UNDERSTAND FCO HAS COMPARED SOME NOTES WITH DEPARTMENT THROUGH BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. QUESTION CENTERS ON WHETHER EXPANDED DIEGO GARCIA FACILITIES CAN OR WILL ACCOMMODATE B-52S. FOREIGN OFFICE HAS BEEN REFERRED TO AGREED CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE CONTAINED IN STATE 228592 OF 17 OCTOBER 1974 WHICH SAYS IN EFFECT THAT THE AIRFIELD WOULD BE PHYSICALLY INCAPABLE OF SUPPORTING B-52 OPERATIONS. WE CAN FIND NO EVIDENCE, HOWEVER, THAT US OFFICIALS HAVE ACTUALLY USED THIS LANGUAGE. FCO WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO SAY, "THE AMERICANS HAVE SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT THE RUNWAY CANNOT BE USED FOR B-52 OPERATIONS". CAN DEPARTMENT CONFIRM THAT STATEMENT OR THE EQUIVALENT IS A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD?

ARMSTRONG

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Message Attributes

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